

ISSUE #22

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# BAAM

## Boston Anti-Authoritarian Movement

### A General Anarchist Union in the Boston Area



*photo by Michael Krigsman*

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# Celebrating May Day Across the Globe

by Jake Carman

On May 1st 2009, immigrant and radical workers across the Northeast and across the globe celebrated International Workers Day with marches and actions.

Here in Boston, one thousand workers and activists marched from Central Square in East Boston to a rally in nearby Everett. The march, organized by an immigrant rights coalition, proclaimed: "Yesterday We Voted for Change, Today We Demand Change!" About 100 anarchists and socialists joined the march, bringing a message of anti-capitalism and distributing hundreds of newsletters featuring the history of Haymarket and May Day. The groups marching with the anti-capitalist contingent included BAAM, the Socialist Party, the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN-El Salvador) and CISPES, the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador.

More than 1,000 participated in New York City May Day actions. According to NYC Indymedia, "Rallies were held on Long Island, at Madison Square Park and in Chintatown, and converged for a mass rally at Union Square. The demonstrators then marched to the Federal Plaza in Lower Manhattan." The IWW also held an action at a Starbucks in Union Square to protest the company's union-busting attempts and oppressive labor policies.

At a May Day rally at Vassar College, according to the Vassar May Day working group, "For the first time in years students and faculty at Vassar are standing in solidarity with staff with more than just words." They held two rallies and marches and stormed into the campus' main building in protest against cutbacks.

Maryann Colella, a member of Bread and Puppet Theater, reports that 300 marched in Richmond, Virginia. In a puppet-led parade, people "commemorated May Day with flags, signs and a Mother Jones puppet." Colella added that they also protested against "Virginia Commonwealth University's plans to

build a parking lot over a slave burial ground." The parade ended at Gallery 5, an art space and radical library, quickly transforming into a joyous, but peaceful, street party. A small group of anarchists continued marching. The police detained a few but made no arrests.

In Frederick, MD, around 40 anarchists and their allies held a Reclaim the Streets action, drawing passersby into the road to dance and celebrate May Day. Participants also educated curious onlookers with an anti-capitalist zine put out by Unconventional Action - Frederick, called "Refusing the Spectacle." Police eventually forced the demonstrators off the street.

Hours after anarchists rallied in Milwaukee, according to witnesses, 20-30 masked folks—suspected anarchists!—smashed windows of a U.S. Bank Building, Whole Foods Market, Bruegger's Bagels, and Qdoba.

In Washington DC, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers began International Workers' Day by making a 6am raid in an apartment complex. Later that day, workers responded with

a 1,500 strong march for immigrant rights, organized by the National Capitol Immigration Coalition. Hours later, 60 anarchists and leftist allies held an unpermitted street march, leading to minor skirmishes with the police.

Demonstrations in the US were relatively tame compared to the rest of the world. Tens of thousands of workers fought police, and attacked corporate and government property in Berlin, Istanbul, in Linz, Austria, in every major Greek city, and in most major cities in France and Spain. In Mexico City, workers defied the ban on public gatherings—presumably to combat swine flu—and marched against the real swine. Large demonstrations also occurred in L'Aquila, Italy, in Moscow, Nigeria, Havana, Tokyo, South Korea, Cambodia, Japan, the Philippines, Zimbabwe, Taiwan, and England.

photos: <http://nyc.indymedia.org/en/2009/05/105128.html> (NYC)  
(more from NYC) <http://www.flickr.com/photos/13930997@N02/>



**The Boston School Bus Drivers Union showed up in full force and joined radicals and immigrants for May Day.**

## The BAAM Newsletter

is the monthly publication of the Boston Anti-Authoritarian Movement, a general union of Boston anarchists. Our publication aims to spread anti-authoritarian ideas and practices, and to report on the social struggles of workers, tenants, students, radicals, and others resisting the repression of the state, bosses, landlords and banks.

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BAAM c/o Boston ABC, PO Box 230182,  
Boston, MA, 02123

## Issue Editors

Adrienne, Jeff Reinhardt, Sublett

## Issue Designers

Jake Carman, Jeff Reinhardt, Marie

## Submissions

We accept submissions for our paper! Email articles, photos, events, letters, etc to Jake at [Trenchesfullofpoets@riseup.net](mailto:Trenchesfullofpoets@riseup.net)



# HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT

by Jeff Reinhardt

## THE SALES TAX INCREASE?

The “recession” in this country has taken its toll on many. Fear and uncertainty plague the minds of investors and workers alike, and many are facing the fact that their lifestyles must change to adjust to this economy. Workers are sacrificing their wages to hang on to their jobs. Businesses are closing their doors and empty buildings are popping up everywhere. Foreclosure signs and bank-owned houses are multiplying across cities, suburbs, and rural towns.

Meanwhile, millions upon billions of dollars have already been spent by our federal government bailing out the wealthiest financial institutions in the country for the sake of keeping the “system” afloat. Two bailouts and a phony economic stimulus bill later, many municipalities in the US are facing shortfalls in their budgets and have been forced to cut social services. Locally, Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick announced last winter that the state must cut \$1.4 billion from its budget. Most of these cuts were to social services and aid for cities and towns across the state.

To make matters worse, the unemployment rate in the state has topped 8.2%, which is the worst we’ve seen since the winter of 1991/92 when it hit 9.8%. People here and elsewhere are losing their jobs, their homes, their retirements, and their savings while both state and federal governments are handing over our tax money to banks in huge increments.

So, seeing the budget shortfalls across the state, the cuts in services, and the inability for cities and towns to provide their own services, one option seemed inevitable.

On May 18, the Massachusetts State Senate voted 29-10, a veto-proof margin, to raise the state’s sales tax from 5% to 6.25%. Gov. Deval Patrick vowed to veto the measure, but because of the veto-proof margin, it is almost certain that residents in the state will be paying higher taxes on all their goods this summer. The Senate also passed a new tax for all

alcoholic beverages purchased in state.

The sales tax increase is predicted to bring in \$633 million in revenue for the state while the liquor tax would bring in an additional \$80 million, according to the Senate. The new revenue is supposed to go to fill in some of the cuts made in the budget for elderly, disabled, and youth services. Money from the alcohol tax would go to rehabilitation and drug prevention programs as well.

Also written into the bill are options for municipalities across the state to raise local meal and lodging taxes by 2%. This measure was added to help make up for the lack of state aid going to these cities and towns.

Rhode Island will be the only state in New England with a higher sales tax than Massachusetts.

Both sides have valid points. We shouldn’t be cutting our social services or raising consumer costs, especially in a time of recession. The only way a bill like this could have passed is because of the desperate situation faced by social services right now. It has become an effective tool for blackmail. Of course, the priorities were in place from the beginning: the banks got the money first, and social services got cut. Unfortunately, here in the states, we’ve gotten used to this backwards agenda.

The solution to this problem will not come from any government. A quick glance around the world, which is also facing recession, shows that when governments propose tax increases, people can and will rebel against the government’s decisions.

This country has a rich history of tax revolts. Ours was the first, and not the last, revolution spurred on by unfair taxation. During the Great Depression, tax revolts were successful in limiting federal property taxes that were enacted by President Hoover in 1932. For

more, check out historian David Beito’s book *Taxpayers in Revolt: Tax Resistance During the Great Depression*.

A look at the current situation in Massachusetts shows a much different picture than these scenarios. We are still comparatively wealthy and enjoy a higher overall standard of living than most places on earth. However, in the coming economic downturn, what we must realize is that the state cannot solve our problems for us. More taxes can always be enacted, but ultimately, it is not up to us where that money is going, and only through organizing and resisting can our voices truly be heard. So while the mainstream media stay quiet about the tax increase, and it seems like a done deal, let’s not forget that our future is in our own hands, and not the state’s.



Photo by Matt Gibson

Outside the State House, rallies were held to call for and commend the passing of this bill. Mainly persons with disabilities, as well as members of youth services in Boston were there, including Reverend Ray Hammond, a founding member of the Boston TenPoint Coalition, who praised the passage of the tax bill for helping keep youth programs in the city.

Meanwhile, the Massachusetts Retailers Association had a diametrical reaction to the news. President John Hurst called it, “a sad day for the Main Streets of Massachusetts.” Republican Senator Robert L. Hedlund of Weymouth jokingly suggested that the bill be called the “New Hampshire economic stimulus package,” referring to that state’s lack of a sales tax. Communities near the borders had similar negative reactions. Soon, at 7%,

# Boston Bashes Back Against Exodus

By Dykonoclast

At 9am on Tuesday April 28th, somewhere between 50-70 people came to the iconic Park Street Church across from Boston Common to attend an Exodus Ministries training. Attendees watched a video wherein “former homosexuals” and “former lesbians” spoke of the power of god to heal “sexual brokenness” and restore heterosexual desires to the most fallen of souls.

During the “male homosexuality” portion of the training, “former homosexual” Jeff Buchanan shared his experience of having turned from his homosexual past, as well as the causes of male homosexuality, which include resentment of male authority and lack of bonding with fathers. This had been going

on for quite some time when Jason Lydon, pastor of the Community Church of Boston, whom the event organizers had foolishly invited, stood up and informed the attendees of their culpability in the suicides of two eleven year old boys in April 2009, both prompted by anti-gay bullying. As security moved to stop him from distributing “JESUS WAS GAY” flyers, he continued, “If Jesus Christ walked into this church today, he would overturn your tables because you have turned his house into a den of thieves!” As he was removed from the building, attendees’ ears rang with the echo of, “GOD LOVES QUEEEERS!”

Attendees were very shaken indeed, with one calling for a prayer to refocus the event, which continued. After Buchanan, Melanie

Spinks, a “former lesbian,” took the lectern to address the essence of womanhood, the causes of “female homosexuality,” and which profiles of women tend to struggle with same-sex attraction. Event-goers had just been informed that lesbians can be attractive when an attractive young woman stood, declared her rejection of Exodus Ministries and her affection for another young woman two tables away. The two ran to each other in an affectionate, snogular embrace, held hands and skipped out the door before security could reach them. Ever mischievous, the two ran around back outside the giant window of the conference room, bringing them into the Granary Burying Ground, final resting place of such patriarchs as Paul Revere, Samuel Adams and

John Hancock, visiting place of hordes of schoolchildren. What better setting to engage in gratuitous homoerotic canoodling?

It is not known to the author what transpired in the conference room after this, as, to the best of their knowledge, all radical queers had excised themselves from the training at this point in the program.

So what is Exodus Ministries? According to their website, “Exodus is a nonprofit, interdenominational Christian organization promoting the message of Freedom from homosexuality through the power of Jesus Christ.” Yes, they’re awful, but perhaps not quite in the way an outsider might envision. Exodus ≠ Fred Phelps; these folks are incredibly polite and sweet, diverse and intergenerational, and they are convinced that they love all us rug munchers and peter puffers. In fact, they are “former homosexuals” themselves. They reject a surprising number of harmful notions, though, as might be expected, they have their own set of harmful notions with which to replace them. They teach that attraction is involuntary and “homosexuality meets legitimate emotional needs.” Naturally, however, they believe that same-sex pairings are “illegitimate” and “wrong” ways to meet these legitimate needs, and teach that all people can and should engage in none but the most godly, heteromonogamarital sexual relationships. It is not surprising that Exodus and other ex-gay ministries frequently drive their quarries into suicide.

As the conference disrupters sat on the Common and reflected on what had transpired inside, they marveled how vitally crucial a monomaniacal insistence on gender binarism was to Exodus’ concerns; while the two are not mutually exclusive, gender conformity nevertheless seemed to be elevated above sexual conformity on their list of priorities. Exodus’ discussion of the causes of homosexual behavior involved parental influences and the centrality of male authority. Melanie Spinks explained that fathers should always approach their daughters; for a girl to approach a man and to take initiative is a masculine trait and she might grow up with an appetite for box lunch. Jeff Buchanan nauseated the radical queers when he insisted that the role of a father is to impart masculinity to male children and to affirm femininity in female children. He recommended that fa-





thers take their daughters on dates, tell them they're beautiful, that they're princesses. It was a strange, alternate universe wherein fundamentalist Christians proclaim radical feminist assertions, here eerily echoing Twisty of I Blame the Patriarchy who once wrote, "Masculinity is what [men] do to keep women feminized. Femininity is what women do to keep from being pathologized, criminalized, ostracized, jailed, raped, and butchered."

"If gender roles are so natural," queried a disrupter. "Why do they need to work so hard to make sure people fit into them?"

Exodus' hatred of women was on abundant display throughout the session. In proclaiming his own heterosexual success, Jeff Buchanan drew attention to "his" wife staffing the check-in table and, speaking in the imperative, demanded, "Wave, honey!" While male-perpetuated abuse featured prominently in their discussions as causes or galvanizing influences of homosexuality, they presented absolutely no analysis, systemic or otherwise, on why men feel entitled to the bodies of children or women. Melanie Spinks proclaimed gender essentializing stereotypes as fact, averring that "relationship is essential to femaleness," further insisting that this is a "gift, not a weakness." On the value of women, Spinks asserted, "There is not a woman on earth who can give you a sense of identity, purpose and security."

Between the sections on male and female homosexuality, national speakers stepped down and allowed local queer-hatin orgs to speak. One such, the Massachusetts Family Institute, had their white cotton panties in a twist over a bill pending in the Massachusetts state legislature, An Act Relative to Gender-Based Discrimination and Hate Crimes. This bill aims to include gender identity and expression in Massachusetts' non-discrimina-

tion statute and amend existing hate crime laws to include trans and gender variant folks. Inexplicably, our fundy friends and media have termed it "The Bathroom Bill," shrieking that, if this bill passes, men will be able to go into women's bathrooms and rape the shit out of everyone inside. We hate to break it to them, but, as chromosome checks are not in place outside public facilities, there is currently nothing stopping men from doing this as things now stand. Meanwhile, as much as these radical queers support whatever it takes to end discrimination against trans and gender non-conforming people, we cannot support hate crimes aspect of the legislation. To quote the Sylvia Rivera Law Project, "Rather than serving as protection for oppressed people, the hate crimes portion of this law may expose our communities to more danger—from prejudiced institutions far more powerful and pervasive than individual bigots."

The disrupters sat waiting on the Common until, right at noon, protesters showed up from Join the Impact, a pro-marriage LGBT rights group. Choosing a spot on the Common far from Park Street Church, Join the Impact brought signs and chants, delivered through a bullhorn. The three radical queers ran over to join the energetic crowd and tell them of their deeds. Would the disrupters like to speak over the bullhorn? And how! The three took turns attempting to impart a liberationist, pro-feminist, pro-trans message and to encourage the crowd to move closer to the church where they could be heard by Exodus attendees. The leadership's response was that they had a permit and that the lady trying to talk about trans issues ought to give the bullhorn back. As the protest wore on, the disrupters were disheartened to observe that only cis men were asked/permitted by the leadership to speak over the bullhorn and that they kept to androcentric messages generally. Considering the vio-



lent misogyny of Exodus, whom the protest was called to counter, more attention needs to be given to the alarming ways in which gay/queer organizing can replicate the very unsavory power dynamics against which we are struggling. None of us will be free until we are all free.

This story has a happy ending, however! After a while, disregarding their leadership, the protesters were enticed by the idea of abandoning their permitted spot and marching over toward Park Street Church where Exodus could hear that they were not welcome in Boston. After a minute or so in front of the church, the crowd was amenable to marching around back into the Granary Burying Ground. There, on the final resting place of Crispus Attucks and Mother Goose, Exodus attendees were forced to hear high-octane, righteous queer rage against their poisonous message. With chants resounding, with sirens wailing, with queer faces peering down at them and cameras snapping at them, a much-shaken Exodus audience sought window coverings. We've got news for you, Exodus: we don't go away when you close your eyes.

**UPDATE: The Alliance Defense Fund, the litigious wing of Christian Heteropatriarchy, has since filed suit against Bash Back! Lansing and 34 other defendants (20 of whom listed as "Jesse Does") over a protest against-Mount Hope Church in Lansing, Michigan on November 9, 2008. On May 13, Bash Back! News (<http://bashbacknews.wordpress.com>) reported that at least 23 Bash Back! members and supporters had been subpoenaed to testify at the trial. The complaint lists other Bash Back! actions as a testament to the dangerous nature of BB!, including the Exodus incident in Boston, albeit described incorrectly [and hilariously]. Bash Back! and radical trans-folk/queers cannot and will not be intimidated. Some of us face life and death on a daily basis. This lawsuit ain't shit.**



# When Pigs Fly and Swine Flu

by Kassie Carlson

The media, and those who control it, say to beware of the H1N1 virus, previously known as swine flu, but some inconsistencies cannot be overlooked. After about a week of closing, Mexico reopened its borders and most of its businesses. The World Health Organization (WHO) has different thoughts about the virus, raising the pandemic alert from 4 to 5. In the Boston area, with nine "probable" cases in Harvard Dental School, both Harvard Dental School and Boston University Dental School closed as a result. According to the Boston Globe, 450 schools closed because of possible infection in the United States affecting 240,000 children in 18 states.

An interesting point of research for swine flu is [pandemicflu.gov](http://pandemicflu.gov). This website gave precautionary information on avian and swine flu. It also gave confirmed cases of H1N1 by US state. Surprisingly enough, swine flu has only resulted in one confirmed death, in Texas. Most states have less than one case of swine flu. Some have none. There have been a total of 29 deaths in all of Mexico. The .gov website also features a link on: "The Great Pandemic: The United States from 1918 – 1919: Heartfelt stories told by survivors, family members and friends from past pandemics, serve as a sobering reminder of the devastating impact that influenza can have." Clearly, as seen by the wording and placement of the link, the media are trying to instill as much fear in the public as possible.

These scare tactics and propaganda make citizens dependent on "bigger," "more knowledgeable" organizations, like the WHO. The media make the public feel disempowered. Even the words "pandemic" and "widespread human infection" seem too big to handle, especially if you have children or a low income. It wasn't until I started doing research that I realized that H1N1 virus didn't kill everyone it infected. In fact, nearly everyone infected recovered fully.

Contrary to popular belief, the common flu is more deadly than H1N1. In the US alone, 36,000 people die annually from the common flu. The New Hampshire Public Health Director, José Montero, when speaking of recent school closings stated: "We need to realize that this disease is similar to the common flu." He was right in saying that the H1N1 virus is similar to the common flu; however using the word disease is false and scarier than the word flu or virus. Over-hype about the flu has caused racist/nationalist discrimination in many areas, particularly in China, towards people with Mexican passports.

So the real question is, why is H1N1 so exaggerated in the media? For one, pharmaceutical industries are profiting endlessly through medical visits and a vaccine treatment called Tamiflu. Also, with recent uprisings all over the world due to the economic crisis and the revelation of widespread corruption, fear of pandemic makes people wary of venturing out from under the great umbrella of current leaders to speak out against ideas that aren't substantiated by enough fact.

Using propaganda to instigate fear is not a new tactic. One of the most primal emotions is fear, which, most of the time, is irrational. As a result, it is one of the most widespread techniques used by propagandists. Manipulation tactics in media and among leaders have been around for centuries.

Other interesting facts I found about the swine flu: most swine flu cases in the US could not be connected to Mexico, pigs, or sick humans. Only 3 out of 47 documented cases were known to have traveled to Mexico, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Furthermore, no independent scientist is allowed to see the original strain of swine flu.

According to a variety of sources, it is possible that contaminated batches of flu vaccine exist. The flu vaccine itself actually contains H1N1 virus. Baxter Pharmaceuticals has offered to work on a vaccine for the swine flu, though, according to Times of India, this is the same company that was recently reprimanded for selling flu vaccine contaminated with deadly live H5N1 avian flu virus to 18

countries last December. On a related note, the SV40 Foundation explains that, in the 1960s, millions of people received polio vaccines contaminated with SV40 monkey virus, which caused cancer in some who were vaccinated. Obviously mistakes are always bound to happen, but the impact of a mistake that causes widespread human infection is catastrophic.

Swine flu was first seen in 1976 in the body of a New Jersey soldier. Because of this one case and a few hundred other flu-like symptoms, President Ford implemented a mas-



**For just \$13 you can protect yourself from the swine flu. Easy enough. Photo by Archee Mcphee**

sive swine flu vaccine program. At that time, 46 million US citizens took the swine flu shot. Four thousand ended up su-

ing the company because of adverse effects. Two thirds of those claims were because of neurological damage, or even death as a result of the shot. Also, during the 1918 flu pandemic that purportedly killed 20 million people, a treatment called CALOMEL was used, also known as mercury. Mercury is now known to be a highly toxic element.

Another important issue that is often overlooked is the origin of viruses and pandemics. Avian flu was developed from poor living conditions and mistreatment of birds in factory farms. Some assume the swine flu originated because pigs are dirty and live in the mud; however, chances are that the origin is similar



**Perhaps the most overlooked break are the horrors of and workers alike, these disease, they are a social tions, animal abuse, and**



to that of the avian flu. Pigs that live in dirty, small cages without an inch to move around spread bacteria quickly.

One well-supported theory about the origin of this strain of swine flu puts the responsibility on Smithfield, one of America's largest pork factories. These slaughterhouses were expanded to Mexico because of free trade policies developed in the 1990s. Along with every slaughterhouse comes an extensive amount of waste. So much waste, in fact, that leftover parts of pigs end up forming lakes. These leftover parts are ground into liquid, then float out into a giant pond to settle. The slaughterhouses are supposed to treat these foul lakes with chemicals to make sure that diseases don't grow, but one Smithfield factory does not do this. The local flies got infected with the flu-like virus, which then was transferable to humans.

The swine flu name has recently been changed to H1N1, according to the Boston Globe, because the pork industry felt it was affecting its business. Swine flu cannot be contracted from eating pig meat, but people still assume it can, just as it is assumed that the virus is an imminent, deadly threat.

A major problem with modern society is that nothing is questioned, let alone read



looked issues related to the swine flu outbreak of the factory farming industry. For animals the "farms" are not only a breeding ground for disease resulting in squalid working conditions and cataclysmic environmental devastation.

about. When reading articles or listening to certain issues, it is important to always evaluate sources and look at all sides of the equation.



Photo from [www.bostonmayday.org](http://www.bostonmayday.org)

**"ICE, ICE, Get Out of the Way, Happy Mothers Day!"**

by The Boston May Day Committee

Boston, May 10, 2009 - Nearly 60 people demonstrated around the Suffolk County Jail in Boston, otherwise known as South Bay House of Corrections, protesting the detention of immigrants in that facility. The signs and the chants indicated what the protesters wanted: legalization, family reunification, and an end to the repression of immigrant workers and their families. All this was in the context of the commercial celebration of Mother's Day. The detainees were fully aware of the presence of the demonstrators and banged at their cell windows.

While the main objective of the demonstration was to protest the fact that the Suffolk County Sheriff Andrea Cabral is profiting from the current federal persecution of immigrants, the demonstrators made the connections between the general prison system and the prison system for immigrants. Both affect disproportionately the poor and people of color.

Sheriff Cabral recently declared to the Boston Globe that "[Holding immigrant prisoners] has been a lifesaver for my budget." Advocates for migrant workers' rights are demanding that a solution be found for the estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S. This solution should be a humane one that doesn't involve further repression and imprisonment and violations of human rights. Many detainees are held for long periods of time in horrible conditions before

deportation.

The Resist the Raids Network that called the demonstrations released a statement that read in part, "According to Amnesty International, more than 400,000 men, women and children are detained by US immigration authorities each year. The majority of immigration detainees are held by state and county jails under agreements with the federal agency. They include asylum seekers, torture survivors, victims of human trafficking, longtime lawful permanent residents, and the parents of US citizen children. The use of detention as a tool to combat unauthorized migration falls short of international human rights law, which contains a clear presumption against detention. Everyone has the right to liberty, freedom of movement, and the right not to be arbitrarily detained.

"Every day in Massachusetts, approximately 800 immigrants and asylum-seekers are in detention in county jails around the state waiting to be deported or fighting a legal battle to stay in the country. None of those persons are serving sentences for having committed a crime. They have not been judged by a jury of their peers."

The demonstration was carried out in an orderly fashion, the message delivered loud and clear and the demonstrators promised they will back. For more information check [www.resisttheraids.org](http://www.resisttheraids.org) and [www.bostonmayday.org](http://www.bostonmayday.org)



# Globe Unions: Now It's Time to Fight Back!

by Jeff Reinhardt

In the early morning hours of May 7th, leaders of the Boston Newspaper Guild, the largest union at the Boston Globe, tentatively agreed to \$20 million in concessions in order to keep the struggling Boston paper afloat. A month before, the New York Times Company (NYT Co.) had given the paper an ultimatum: either cut over \$20 million in costs, or be shut down.

Out of The Globe's 13 unions, the Newspaper Guild, which represents over 600 editorial, advertising, and office personnel, was the last union to fold and meet the demands, but this does not mean that the union has completely accepted the agreement. In fact, a vote has been scheduled for June 8, and it is possible that the union could then make the difficult decision to reject the cuts putting them in direct opposition with management at the Globe and the Ny Times.

So far, four of the Globe's unions have agreed on the cuts. This past week, the Mailer's

Union and the Paper Handler's Union agreed to \$7.2 million in cuts. Both votes were won by narrow margins. Obviously, the union members were not thrilled with the outcomes, but their futures ride heavily on the vote to be taken by the Newspaper Guild next week.

All in all, the NYT Co. is asking for an 8.3% pay cut for all Guild employees, and on top of that an unpaid furlough that would amount to another 2% pay cut overall. This is much better than the supposed 23% pay cut demanded by the NYT Co. and Globe management in the weeks leading up to the agreement, although it still could convince some union members to vote against it.

In an interview with Joe Strupp from Editor & Publisher Magazine, Globe employees expressed deep concerns with accepting the agreement. "People are having a really, really hard time accepting the pay cut," said Beth Daley, a union delegate and Globe reporter.

The agreement also slashes the company's contributions to pensions and eliminates contributions to 401(k) plans for retirees. Another huge point of contention is the elimination of lifetime job guarantees that nearly 470 employees across all the Globe's unions had enjoyed. This would of course open the door for more inevitable layoffs from the company

and certainly will push more union members to vote "no" in the upcoming meeting.

Subscribers to the Globe will begin paying more, too. The Globe recently announced a 50¢ per day increase for home delivery, bringing the total weekly cost up to \$12.25. Suburban subscribers can expect to pay an extra 75¢ a day, bringing the total to \$15.50 per week. This will be effective on June 1st.



Rally on April 24th in Boston to save the Globe. Locals have certainly made it known that they don't want the Globe to close. Photo by Cmpiper.

Meanwhile, at the New York Times, employees are facing only 5% wage cuts and management will see little or no loss in pay. A petition has begun circulating the Globe newsroom demanding that union members vote "no" on the agreement and instead negotiate a 5% pay cut equal to the deal at the New York Times. This too, could result in a resounding rejection of the current offer.

These are just some of the reasons why, in my article in the April issue of the B A A M News-letter, I predicted that the unions would not accept the drastic pay cuts and, thus, that the Globe could very well go under. So far, I thought wrong, but I also had expectations that the unions would have some stamina and hold onto what it had fought for in the past.

This was not an easy decision for the unions. Not accepting the cuts could have easily resulted in a lot of job losses, but in the long run, a decision like this adds to the constant degradation of the worker and the total

loss of power by the unions in this country. The ease with which the NYT Co. trampled on the Globe's unions validates the assumption that the management made, which is that the unions wouldn't fight back.

Ironically, the editorial staff at the New York Times supported the struggles of mainstream labor unions for years. Going all the way back to the Great Depression, the Times consistently published pro-union editorials and columns and covered the rise of the labor movement extensively through the 1960s. However, it appears that management has a much different view.

Management sees only numbers, but piling problems on their workers is not the solution. The Globe is on track to lose an estimated \$85 million in 2009. A lot of the Globe's financial difficulties are attributed to the rise of internet journalism, which has effectively wiped out many subscribers. Combined with the economic downturn last fall, which hurt advertising big time, a serious deficit emerged. Yet this problem will not be solved by cutting pay and benefits for employees. All across the newspaper industry, a vast restructuring must occur if many major publications are to survive. The current system isn't working (just like the capitalist system as a whole), and only through radical changes in the industry will sustainability be possible.

It is also imperative that in times of recession that labor unions hold strong. It will be easy for the executives to hold onto "their share," but the workers will not get theirs without a struggle. Thus, if the Globe's unions lose their ability to threaten the NYT Co., it is a sign of the coming impotency of mainstream labor

unions. Even President Obama, who claims to be pro-union, has done nothing to help organized labor.

**All across the newspaper industry, a vast restructuring must occur if many major publications are to survive.**

But, as always, workers cannot look to the ruling class to throw them a bone. If unions are going to weather the current financial storm, which, in my opinion, is the basis of a functioning union, they must start building real solidarity in the workplace. This is not a new idea, but it has been buried underneath the mask of modernity for too long.

We'll see what happens amongst the Globe's unions. They can still fight. Perhaps they will choose to.



## Anarchist Education: A New Working Group

by Molly

The Boston Anarchist Education Working Group, born out of discussion at the last BAAM meeting, had its first meeting on Sunday May 17, 2009. The mission of the working group is to spread a historical, theoretical and practical framework of anarchism both within already existing politically active groups and out into our communities at large. Our strategy involves uniting groups such as BAAM, NEFAC (North East Federation of Anarcho-Communists), the Sacco and Vanzetti Commemoration Society, the IWW (Industrial Workers of the World), and others so that we can share our skills and knowledge with each other and work together to create a larger educational infrastructure.

The manipulative capitalist system of education under which we suffer refuses to provide an accurate account of the current and historical successes of anarchism, so we must do it ourselves! Without a more widespread positive and accurate view of anarchism, the possibilities of a horizontal society without the oppression of hierarchy will remain in the minds of most either chaotic violence at worst or an impossible utopia at best.

We aim to recapture our history and theory through study and discussion. Using the lessons of the past as a lens, we will discuss the struggles of our communities today, striving to make more confident, effective, talented organizers and agitators of all of us.

The first couple of events sponsored by the Education Working Group are coming up: On Tuesday June 2nd at 5:30pm at the Lucy Parsons Center (549 Columbus Ave, Boston), before the next BAAM meeting, there will be a panel and discussion on ways to facilitate collective organization in our workplaces. At 1:00pm on Saturday June 6th, at the Arnold Arboretum in Jamaica Plain, there will be a picnic and reading group discussion on Paul Avrich's *Sacco and Vanzetti: The Anarchist Background* (rain location: Lucy Parsons Center at 2:00pm).

Future plans include regularly held anarchist workshops and classes on topics ranging from anarchist history and theory to strategic and tactical trainings. Input and ideas welcome.

If you want to get involved or have skills and resources you'd like to share, come to the next BAAM meeting (1st Tuesday of every month at the Lucy Parsons Center) or contact peacepunk315(AT)yahoo.com.

## Reportback from the 8th NEAN Assembly May 23-25

by Adrienne

The eighth General Assembly of the North-East Anarchist Network was held in the stunningly pretty town of Ithaca, NY over Memorial Day weekend. The Ithacore was ready for

the convergence of scores of anarchists, offering six free meals to all attendees, indoor housing, or the opportunity to camp on an organic farm, whose owners changed their road sign to read, 'WELCOME ANARCHISTS!' Friday arrivals were asked to check in at the Tompkins County Workers' Center, a fantastic space that also houses Silent City Distro, an inspiring writing and publishing operation run by several of our hosts. We held our Saturday meeting there and the Sunday meeting in a shaded greenhouse on the farm. Though the pace was leisurely and allowed plenty of time for socializing, a great deal was accomplished at the meetings, in part thanks to a skilled facilitation team. After breakfast, intros, welcoming groundwork information from the Ithacuties and lunch, we spent a few hours doing 'open space,' a discussion format appropriated from corporate america, which major companies use to collapse their hierarchies long enough to sap valuable input from its underlings before subordinating them again. Our open space allowed people to have discussions on topics as varied as anarchist pirate ships, soccer, student organizing and the upcoming G20, and, perhaps more valuably, permitted folks interested in the more contentious agenda points to work together on these topics in smaller groups before the larger group discussion. And thank goodness for that! The most frustrating discussion of the weekend was like a happy sunshiney make out party compared to assemblies we held two years ago, and a great many more positive results were yielded from it.

Saturday's meeting was concluded by dinner and a film on December's insurrection in Greece, wherein viewers participated by taking turns reading the subtitles out loud. A talent show convened around a campfire on the farm that night. People took turns telling jokes and playing and singing each other songs.

Sunday morning began with a panel on radical publications in the Northeast, from BAAM's newsletter to Pittsburgh Organizing

## Reports and Reviews



Group's *Steel City Revolt*, *IthacaZine*, Binghamton's *Talk Back*, to NEAN's *Nor'Easter* and the national project Prison Action News, as worked on by the Boston Anarchist Black Cross. Various projects were proposed during the assembly and people signed up for future participation and collaboration. We had workshops and discussions, among other topics, on anti-authoritarian games, sustainable community, insurrection, and social detox: radical anti-sexist principles and sexuality.

Every participant I talked to agreed that this was by far the best assembly in terms of meetings and building connections. Nevertheless, I would be remiss in neglecting to note that male domination continues to be a problem in our circles. The frustrations of female participants were corroborated by contribution logging, where it was revealed that folks who identified as men spoke twice for every contribution from a self-identified woman. As the Ithacuties remind us, social detox is a process, not a product of revolution.

### New Projects from the 8th North-East Anarchist Network Assembly

#### NEAN Affiliation Committee.

The network created an "Affiliation Committee" to keep track of current and prospective NEAN affiliated groups, keep an updated contact list of group point people, and facilitate the consensus process on NEAN proposals.

Contact: affiliation@neanarchist.net

#### NEAN Defense Committee.

Boston ABC and Blackbird Collective will take on the Committee in its incubation stages (Pending approval from these two groups).

Committee will hold a conference call in June to hash out what the group can do.

Note: the only endorsement this committee requires from the network is that of direct participation! Email Lil\_Red@riseup.net

# CALENDAR: GET INVOLVED

## Monthly Events:

### Every Monday:

Papercut Zine Library meeting, 7:30pm, 45 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge

### First Tuesday of Every Month:

BAAM meeting, 7pm, Lucy Parsons Center, 549 Columbus Ave, Boston

### Second Tuesday of Every Month:

Anarchist Black Cross meeting (defense and prison abolition group), 8pm, 45 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge

### Every Wednesday:

Free Radical Film Nights, 7pm, at the Lucy Parsons Center, 549 Columbus Ave, Boston

First Sunday of Every Month: Rising Tide Boston meeting, 5:30pm @ The Lucy Parsons Center, 549 Columbus Ave, Boston

Second Sunday of Every Month: 2pm Industrial Workers of the World meeting. Lucy Parsons Center, 549 Columbus Ave, Boston

### Third Sunday of Every Month:

BAAM work and activity day, 1pm. Locations being arranged, email Jake at [trenchesfullofpoets@riseup.net](mailto:trenchesfullofpoets@riseup.net) for info

### Last Saturday of Every Month:

ABNA's Really Really Free Market. Bring stuff/take stuff, all is free! (please no furniture). At Ringer Park, Allston st.

### Every Friday:

Food Not Bombs free community meal, 4-6pm, Boston Common, Park St T Stop, Boston

### June 3

Rally and Speakout for CORI Reforms. 10am-12:30pm, on the State House Steps. Please join the Boston Workers Alliance and our allies in a creative Rally & Speak. CORI speakers will be dressed in the clothing of their chosen occupation (cook, nurse, customer service, building trades etc) to underscore the talents that they have and to show how CORI locks them out of the system. After the Speak Out, individuals will be provided packets to deliver to State Reps and Senators to ensure that CORI reform is a top priority once the state budget is finalized.

### June 4

No Layoffs Campaign pickets Harvard students' commencement. Harvard isn't broke, they shouldn't be laying off workers! Meet at noon at the Holyoke Center, 1350 Mass Ave. [harvardnolayoffs.blogspot.com/](http://harvardnolayoffs.blogspot.com/)

### June 5-7

The Chaotic Insurrection Ensemble, a Montreal-based activist street band, will be hosting the 2nd Annual Cultural Insurrection Convention in Montreal. The event will be a gathering of streetbands and other performance artists from around the region. Our goal is to allow artists and politically active communities to share music, energy, skills and knowledge. This year's convention will include workshops, skillshares, informal discussions and music-making as well as a streetband and theatre extravaganza!

### June 6

Anarchist Picnic: Featuring a New Reading Group! 1pm. Meet at JP Arboretum Entrance near the Forest Hills T Stop. Look for the black flags! BAAM's monthly anarchist picnic. Bring and share music, food, skills and ideas. Stop in to discuss *Sacco and Vanzetti: The Anarchist Background*, by Paul Avrich, the new Anarchist Reading Group's first book. It explores in depth the Italian anarchist movement in and around Boston during the early 1900s, and is a must read for all Massachusetts anarchists struggling for freedom and equality today! Read pages 9-104 and be prepared to discuss. Rain location: the Lucy Parsons Center, 2pm. Reading Group sponsors: Sponsors: BAAM, NEFAC-Boston, and the Sacco and Vanzetti Commemoration Society.

### June 7

Vegan Potluck Social and Intro to Prisoner Support with the Anarchist Black Cross in Brighton, MA. 3pm. Come hang out and learn about prisoner support. Email [BostonAbc@riseup.net](mailto:BostonAbc@riseup.net) for address.

### June 11

Protest Bank of America with Jobs with Justice. Meet at 4:00pm at the 100 Federal St. Bank of America for a march that will go by the Chamber of Commerce and end at the State house.

### June 13

Organized Chaos: An Eclectic Community Event at Ringer Park, Allston.

View from Farm in Ithaca. Photo by Clara Hendricks





# CALENDAR: GET INVOLVED

11am-4:30pm. Come out for sports, games, giveaways, kids activities, music, food, art, and all of the other wonders Allston has to provide. Allston/Brighton Neighborhood Assembly will also host a Really Really Free Market at the event. Organized by the Ringer Park Partnership group.

## July 1

Film Screening. "Farm: Life inside Angola Prison." Boston Anarchist Black Cross. Part of the LPC's weekly film series.

## July 4

Anarchist Picnic: Featuring a New Reading Group! Noon-2pm, Followed by the Socialist Party's Annual Anti-Capitalist BBQ. Brighton section of the Charles River! Here's a Google map: <http://tinyurl.com/5nnws5>. Finish *Sacco and Vanzetti: the Anarchist Background*. Rain location: the Lucy Parsons Center, 2pm. Reading Group sponsors: Sponsors: BAAM, NEFAC-Boston, and the Sacco and Vanzetti Commemoration Society

## July 8

Film Screening. "Up the Ridge." Boston Anarchist Black Cross presents this documentary about a prison in a former mine-town. Part of the LPC's weekly film series.

## August 1

Anarchist picnic in Pittsburgh. BAAM is going to visit our friends in Pittsburgh for their annual large-scale picnic.

## August 22

Allston Squirtgun Day begins at high noon, at the intersection of Harvard and Brighton Ave. Bring your weapon of choice (squirtgun, water balloons) and join in the fun! Rumors have surfaced of the appearance of a revolutionary anarchist squirtgun militia... Organized by the Clone Collective. [www.myspace.com/allstonsquirtgunday](http://www.myspace.com/allstonsquirtgunday)

## August 23

Sacco and Vanzetti Memorial March. Join the Sacco and Vanzetti Commemoration Society for the fourth annual march to remember the fallen Italian anarchist workers, and to continue their struggle for revolution. No Deportations, No State Repression! [www.SaccoandVanzetti.org](http://www.SaccoandVanzetti.org)

## September 24-25

The G20 Dares to Challenge Pittsburgh. Join BAAM and other Northeast Anarchist Network comrades to smash the G20 in Pittsburgh, PA. The G20 is a summit of the 20 most economically powerful governments, meeting to plan the future of the global econo-

my. Pittsburgh, on the other hand, is a city of immense poverty, unemployment, and well-organized anarchists! A show-down is imminent!

## October

Month of Anarchy! A series of educational and outreach events sponsored by the Northeast Anarchist Network. Keep an eye out as these develop in your city! [www.NeAnarchist.net](http://www.NeAnarchist.net)

## October 9-11

Honk! Festival of Activist Street Bands. Davis Square, Somerville. Come to the yearly three day festival of radical marching bands from across the country and around the world. More details TBA in future.



**Come to Harvard June 4th and join the no-layoffs campaign. Don't let the world's richest university get away with mistreating its employees. Photo by Phillip Kidd.**

**HELP US SAVE TREES! (PAPER AND MONEY) FOR A FREE EMAIL SUBSCRIPTION, CONTACT JAKE: [TRENCHESFULLOFPOETS@RISEUP.NET](mailto:TRENCHESFULLOFPOETS@RISEUP.NET)**

## Contributors to this month's issue:

-Adrienne  
-Clara Hendricks  
-Dykonoclast  
-Jake Carman  
-Jeff Reinhardt  
-Kassie Carlson  
-Marie  
-Molly  
-Sublett  
-The Boston May Day Committee



## What is Anarchism?

Anarchism is the theory and practice of a human society organizing without hierarchy, authority and oppression. This means that all people have equal access to the decision-making process and to the products of their collective labor. Anarchy can be described as true, direct democracy. It is horizontal: i.e. workers working together without bosses, neighbors organizing housing and neighborhoods without landlords, and people making decisions without politicians. There are many different ideas on how to get there and what exactly it will look like. We can talk all we want, but only a truly free and revolutionary people will be able to decide what their revolution will look like. So comrades, let's get to work!

**[WWW.BAAMBOSTON.ORG](http://WWW.BAAMBOSTON.ORG)**

# BOSTON ANARCHISTS!

## Reading Group - At the Anarchist Picnic!

**First Meeting: June 6th, 1pm**  
**Meet at JP Arboretum**  
**Entrance near the**  
**Forest Hills T Stop.**  
Discuss pages 9-104 (see below)  
**Look for the black flags!**

**2nd Meeting: July 4th, Noon**  
**Brighton section of the Charles**  
**River! Here's a Map:**  
<http://tinyurl.com/5nmws5>  
Discuss pages 105-and (see below)  
**Followed by an anti-capitalist BBQ!**

**In Case of Rain!**  
**Meet at 2pm at the Lucy**  
**Parsons Center, 549**  
**Columbus Ave, Boston.**  
**Either Day**

## Our First Book:

"Sacco and Vanzetti: The Anarchist Background," by Paul Avrich,  
explores in depth the Italian anarchist movement in and around  
Boston during the early 1900s, and is a must read for all Massachu-  
setts anarchists struggling for freedom and equality today!

**Sponsors: BAAM, NEFAC-Boston,**  
**The Sacco and Vanzetti Commemoration Society**

